

**Practice: 511 - Forage Harvest Management**

**Scenario: #1 - Perennial Crops - Delayed Mowing**

**Scenario Description:**

In perennial forage crops, the delaying the harvest of the first cutting to promote the reproduction of ground nesting birds. Delaying the harvest of the first cutting will benefit ground nesting birds; research at the University of Vermont showed that breeding success for declining grassland songbirds went from 0 on a regularly harvested hay field to 2.8 fledglings per female per year when the the first harvest on a hayfield was delayed until August 1st. Eastern Meadowlarks, and Savannah Sparrows require a nesting period to fledge young that lasts through the end of July in most parts of the eastern US. The delayed harvest results in a decrease in overall forage quality. Farmers could see as much as a 50% reduction in market value due to declines in protein (~50%) and digestibility (~20%), making the forage crop less palatable and lower in relative feed value. The selected fields should be large enough to promote ground nesting birds. After young have fledged the field will be harvested for dry forages.

**Before Situation:**

Perennial forage crops are produced and harvested; ground nesting birds are disturbed and/or fledgling birds are killed in the process.

**After Situation:**

Annual crops are harvested with a delayed mowing; forage quality is compromised, however, the survival of ground nesting birds is promoted.

**Scenario Feature Measure:** Increased grassland bird populations.

**Scenario Unit:** Acre

**Scenario Typical Size:** 30

**Scenario Cost:** \$683.37

**Scenario Cost/Unit:** \$22.78

**Cost Details (by category):**

Component Name	ID	Component Description	Unit	Price (\$/unit)	Quantity	Cost
	297				100	
<b>Acquisition of Technical Knowledge</b>						
Training, Registration Costs	296	Conference Registration Fees	Each	\$133.62	1	\$133.62
Training, Workshops	294	Educational seminar or series of meetings emphasizing interaction and exchange of information among a usually small number of participants.	Each	\$41.42	1	\$41.42
<b>Foregone Income</b>						
FI, Grazing AUMs	2079	Grazing is the Primary Land Use	AUM	\$15.29	30	\$458.70
<b>Labor</b>						
Skilled Labor	230	Labor requiring a high level skill set: Includes carpenters, welders, electricians, conservation professionals involved with data collection, monitoring, and or record keeping, etc.	Hour	\$24.60	1	\$24.60
<b>Materials</b>						
Test, Plant Tissue Test	301	Tissue analysis for crops. Includes materials and shipping only.	Each	\$25.03	1	\$25.03